

In General Butler's "plan of operations" were instructions to "Burn up both the Bethels. Blow up, if brick." Artillerists to "handle the captured guns," and "spikes to spike them," were also to be provided.

Everything went according to the plan, up to a certain point. Duryea and Washburn had arrived at the places assigned them, and Bendix's supporting regiment had arrived at the fork of the road where the junction was to be made with Townsend. As day dawned Townsend's Regiment, with General Pierce and his aide-de-camp in advance, were within a hundred yards of Bendix's position, when suddenly the latter opened upon Townsend's column with both artillery and musketry, killing two and wounding nineteen, four of the latter being officers. General Pierce says that he was on the point of ordering a charge upon the supposed enemy when the mistake was discovered. Duryea and Washburn, hearing the firing in their rear, "reversed their march," to use General Butler's expression, and joined their belligerent reserves. Pierce held a council of war, decided to attack Bethel, and sent to Butler for re-inforcements, who dispatched to him Colonel Allen's First and Colonel Carr's Second New York Regiments.

The enemy's forces, therefore, which were engaged against us at Bethel, may be summed up as follows:

First New York, Colonel Allen,*	. . .	750
Second New York, Colonel Carr,*	. . .	750
(A detachment acting as artillerists).		
Third New York, Colonel Townsend,	. . .	650
Fifth New York, Colonel Duryea,	. . .	850
Seventh New York, Colonel Bendix,*	. . .	750
First Vermont,†	300
Fourth Massachusetts,†	300
(Both under Lieutenant-Colonel Washburn).		
Second U. S. Artillery, Greble's Detachment, say,		50
Total,	4,400

*This is the average of the known strength of Duryea's and Townsend's Regiments, as given in Pierce's report, "War of the Rebellion," Vol. II, page 83.

†Bendix's report, *Ibid.*, page 88.